

from the shore to a sinking ship with a rope attached. The rope would then have a means of transport attached to it to give shipwreck survivors a way to reach the shore.

This information led to a trip to the National Archives where more intensive research found that our projectile was one of only two of that type made. This investigation helped us to learn why David Lyle made this type of projectile, why it failed, and how he learned from this mistake to move on to his next prototype.

We have made many other finds from this sweep. In general they give us a clearer picture of the different guns and projectiles that were tested at Sandy Hook. We have found that they were testing different details on the same items. In addition, the number of rounds that are found to still be live has taught us to be very careful when doing any work that requires even minor excavation!

These same pieces of ordnance are being used in what we think is a totally new light. For use in an exhibition, our projectiles are being photographed in a way that allows them to be viewed as pieces of sculpture, rather than munitions of war. In fact, a viewer has to look carefully to realize what exactly is in the photograph.

While the objects in the museum collection can be used for exhibit purposes, there is so much more that we can do with our artifacts. At Gateway I believe that we have just begun to discover the information that our objects hold. Our exhibit program may be small at the moment, but that does not mean that the use of our museum collection is insignificant.

---

*Felice S. Ciccione is curator at Gateway National Recreation Area. She is in charge of the artifact collection, as well as being highly involved in the research, preservation, and interpretation of all the cultural resources in Gateway NRA. She can be reached at Gateway, 26 Miller Field, Staten Island, NY 10306.*

Pamela Beth West

## ***Memoranda of Understanding Can Be the Way to Go***

**M**useum Services in the National Capital Field Area is using the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to work with companies and institutions to promote our museum resources.

So far, we have used these documents to publish a book, a CD-ROM, and several exhibits. In all cases we have required that the NPS name be mentioned in all advertising, brochures, and general publicity for the event. This has given the NPS some great publicity and allowed us to highlight both the collections and the employees that work on them.

These projects have also allowed us to reach the general public as well as provide a vehicle to raise funds for the preservation of collections or to reimburse us for the time we put into the project. In many cases, we have requested monies up front as a reimbursement for staff time. In other cases, we have had as a requirement of the MOU a paragraph that stipulates that the work or project will mention the fact that the public can donate funds to preserve these collections or provide us with information to help identify the objects in the collections.

---

*Pamela Beth West is the curator of the National Capital System Support Office, NPS. Her phone is 202-205-3831; questions can also be directed to her on cc:Mail or on Internet, pam\_west@nps.gov.*

### **Servicewide Museum Management Conference**

The NPS Museum Management Program Council (MMPC) and the Servicewide Museum Management Program (WASO Museum Management Program) are planning a Servicewide Museum Management conference. The theme of the meeting will be the use of collections for research, exhibits, and heritage education. The NPS meeting will be held in advance of and in conjunction with the Department of the Interior Museum

Property conference. The theme of the DOI conference is "Managing Federally Associated Collections." Both meetings are tentatively scheduled to be held in the San Francisco Bay Area in February 1996.

Sessions at the NPS conference may address collections-related publications, visible storage, exhibits, outreach, providing access to collections, copyright and trademark issues, Native American and other traditional uses, collections on the Internet. Other topics for the conference may include site-specific case studies on any aspect of museum collection

use. The conference will also be a forum for introduction of the *NPS Museum Handbook, Part III, Collections Use*.

This conference will also be an opportunity for NPS curators, natural and cultural resource managers, and other NPS staff to further the goals of Restructuring the NPS Museum Management Program.

—John Maounis

---

*John Maounis is heading the Museum Management Program Council; he was the Regional Curator of the North Atlantic Region and is now the Chief, Northeast Museum Services Center, Boston.*